Oil Companies from various parts of the country are given below:

1992-93	40
1993-94	27
1994-95	30

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestion that delivery-man should carry a weighing scale with him and weigh the cylinder in the presence of consumer was experimented in the past but has not proved effective.

(e) There are clearly laid down procedures to ensure correctness of the weight of LPG refill cylinders at the bottling plants. Further, the LPG refill cylinders are weighed by the distributors at the time of receipt from the LPG bottling plants and underweight cylinders are returned to the bottling plant. Before delivery of refill cylinder to the consumers, the distributors are required to weigh the same to ascertain correctness of weight. As and when specific complaints about the sale of underweight cylinders are received, they are investigated by the LPG marketing comapnies and if the complaint is established, appropriate action is taken against the LPG distributor under the Marketng Discipline Guidelines and also by the State Government through their Weights and Measures Departments.

Norms for allotment of LPG Agencies

3700. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms followed for allotment of LPG agency;

(b) what is the total population that is taken into consideration to allot LPG agencies; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the need for LPG has risen four folds due to paucity of fire wood trees, which are almost extinct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) LPG distributorships are allotted to the persons meeting eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, income, residence and multiple dealership norms through the process of advertsement and selection by Oil Selection Boards for the locations included in the Marketing Plans. In addition, a few dealership/distributorships are allotted under discretionary powers of the Government on compassionate grounds. ....

(b) At present, LPG distributorships are opened at places having a population of 20,000 and above as per 1991 census in a phased manner, subject to product availbility and the economic viability of the location.

(c) Demand for LPG is growing rapidly. In order to meet this growing demand, 623 new LPG distributorships were included in the Marketing Plan 1992-94 and 1020 new LPG distributorships are included in the Marketing Plan 1994-96 all over the country.

Import of Natural Gas

3701. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from where natural gas is imported;

(b) the details of natural gas imported during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise, indicating the amount spent during the same period;

(c) whether he had stated, while inaugurating a two day Asian Development Bank Conference on Natural Gas Potential South Asia Summit, that India may import gas from Indonesia and Bangladesh; and